



Bureau of Home Furnishings & Thermal Insulation

**INDUSTRY
ADVISORY**

California Technical Bulletin 603 Open-Flame Standard for Mattresses

APRIL 2005

LICENSEE INFORMATION SHEET

In January 2004, the California Department of Consumer Affairs' Bureau of Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation (Bureau) adopted regulations making California the first in the nation requiring mattresses to resist ignition from open flames. This new fire-safety standard applies to mattresses, mattress/box spring sets, and futons and is known as Technical Bulletin 603 (TB 603).

The Bureau received concerns from the industry that the previously adopted TB 603 law label moved California further away from a uniform law label. The Bureau recognized industry's issue and revised the label to the extent possible.

Existing Stock of TB 603 Law Labels

Since many manufacturers may have a preprinted supply of the original TB 603 law label, the Bureau included language in the regulations that allows the continued use of the original TB 603 law labels until supplies are exhausted. Once supplies are exhausted, the newly adopted TB 603 law label (effective February 4, 2005) will be required.

- ▶ The new label includes a TB 603 compliance statement and the date of manufacture. Only products certified by the manufacturer to pass the TB 603 test can lawfully be labeled: "This product meets the requirements of the California Bureau of Home Furnishings Technical Bulletin 603." Other labeling requirements remain unchanged.
- ▶ Manufacturers are required to perform the customary and prudent due-diligence steps required to self-certify products meet the TB 603 standard.
- ▶ It is illegal to affix this law label to products that do not meet the TB 603 fire-safety standard.

Enforcement

- ▶ All companies that manufacture, wholesale, import or retail bedding and upholstered furniture to California consumers must be licensed by the Bureau.
- ▶ The Bureau will inspect licensed facilities and test products to verify compliance with the TB 603 regulations.
- ▶ Violations could result in citations, fines, orders to withhold products from sale, and license revocation.

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Truth in Advertising

- ▶ Only complete, finished products that are certified by the manufacturer to meet the standard can be described as "Meeting TB 603" or "meets California's new mattress fire-safety standard," etc. Various component materials contribute to the finished product's ability to pass the TB 603 test. However, claims that any component material, fabric, barrier, sewing thread, tape edge or filling material, etc., are themselves "TB 603 Certified," "TB 603 Compliant" or approved by BHFTI cannot be true, as Technical Bulletin 603 involves no component testing or certification.
- ▶ BHFTI regulates only home furnishings products with filling material, such as upholstered furniture, mattresses and mattress pads. The Bureau does not regulate bedding textiles such as blankets, sheets, and pillowcases. Any claim that a bedding textile product itself meets Technical Bulletin 603 is false.

Example of TB 603 Law Label Adopted February 4, 2005

<i>(Space for Stitching)</i>	
UNDER PENALTY OF LAW THIS TAG NOT TO BE REMOVED EXCEPT BY THE CONSUMER.	
ALL NEW MATERIAL consisting of	
Registry No. _____	
Certification is made by the manufacturer that the materials in this article are described in accordance with law.	
Name/Address of Manufacturer or Vendor:	
Finished Size	Net Wt. of Filling Mat'l
This product meets the requirements of the California Bureau of Home Furnishings Technical Bulletin 603.	
Manufactured in:	
_____ Month	_____ Year

Minimum type size
one-eighth inch in
height, in capital
letters.

Insert
description of
filling materials
by clearly
imprinting in
English, using
capital letters
not less than
one-eighth inch
high.

This space
optional.